

# The ASCH Project - Towards the Contextualization of Provenance Information

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ASCH-Workshop

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# Overview



- The Asch Collection (Susanne)
- Modeling Cultural and Scientific Heritage (Stefanie)
- Workshop Program (Susanne and Stefanie)



# About the Projekt

- Purpose and Scope: developing metadata standards for contextualising heterogenous objects from collections
- Funded by Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
- Duration: 01.09. 2014 – 31.08 2017
- Project Lead: Göttingen State and University Library
- Contact:
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  - Gudrun Bucher (mailto: gudrun.bucher(a)sub.uni-goettingen.de)



# GEORG THOMAS VON ASCH AND THE ASCH COLLECTIONS



# Göttingen University's Art Collection



Portraiture of Georg Thomas von Asch  
(1729-1807);  
painting by Kyrill Golovachevski;  
oil on canvas, 86 x 70 cm;  
donation of 1780

# Göttingen Royal Academic Museum, 1773



# The 7 affiliates: institutions with historical holdings of the provenance von Asch



- SUB Göttingen: Historic Printed Collections, Manuscripts and Rare Books, Göttingen University Archive
- Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology: The Ethnographic Collection
- Department of Anatomy and Embryology, Center for Anatomy, University Medical Center Göttingen: The Skull Collection
- Geoscience Centre: Historical Collections
- Department of Archaeology: The Coin Collection
- Department of Art History and Art Collection
- Museum of Zoology



# SUB Göttingen: Historic Printed Collections, Manuscripts and Rare Books, Göttingen University Archive



“Woman of the Reindeer Tungus in summer garment”,  
watercolored copper engraving;

in:

Gavrila Sarychev: *Gawrila Sarytschew's Russisch-Kaiserlichen Generalmajors von der Flotte achtjährige Reise im nordöstlichen Sibirien, auf dem Eismeere und dem nordöstlichen Ozean*, (1805-1815);  
SUB Göttingen, Russica S 265



# Institute of Social and Cultural Anthropology: The Ethnographic Collection



Shaman's Costume (front), Tungus  
(Evenks), Siberia;

height: 190 cm;

As 957

# Department of Anatomy and Embryology, Center for Anatomy, University Medical Center Göttingen: The Skull Collection

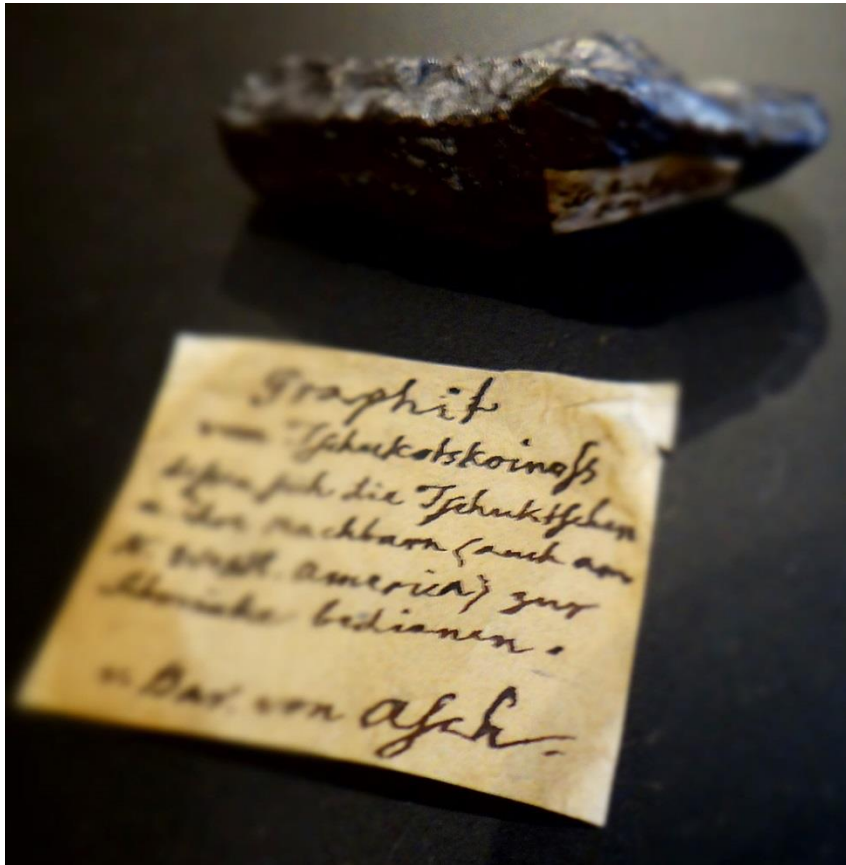


Skull of a Yakut;

Kratzsch, Bartholomeus (????-????);

AIG.559

# Geoscience Centre: Historical Collections



Graphite; Geoscience Museum;  
with original labeling – von Asch gives  
some information on the graphite's use

# Department of Archaeology: The Coin Collection



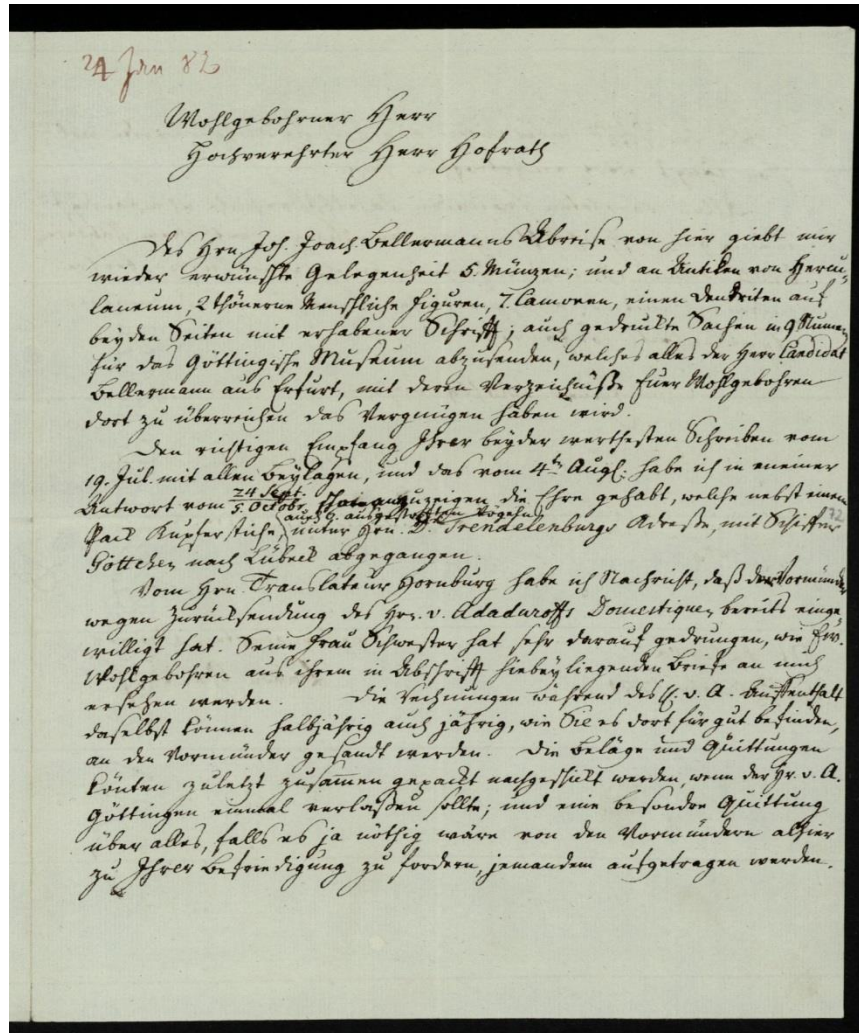
Medal with the profile of von Asch and the inscription „*Liberator a peste*“;

diameter: 53 mm;

weight: 61,15 g



# Department of Art History and Art Collection; Museum of Zoology





# MODELING CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC HERITAGE





# Cultural and Scientific Heritage in the WWW

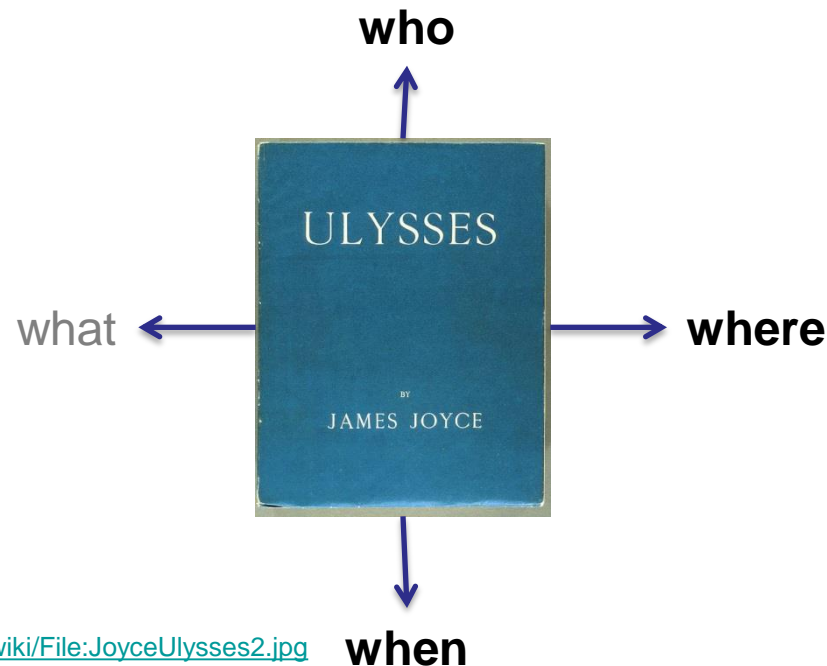
- The vision
  - A one-stop shop for access to millions of digital cultural and scientific objects
  - Interlinking the results of different projects, institutions and disciplines
- The need
  - well-structured consistent description of objects using metadata standards
- The reality
  - Metadata standards used by cultural and scientific institutions sometimes differ widely in their model and structures
  - Metadata descriptions are aligned to the requirements of specific projects, in-house rules, legacy data, community agreements, ...

**And most time it makes sense!**



# Some Metadata Descriptions are ...

- focusing on the description of the object
  - MARC (Machine-Readable Cataloging)
  - MODS (Metadata Object Description Schema)

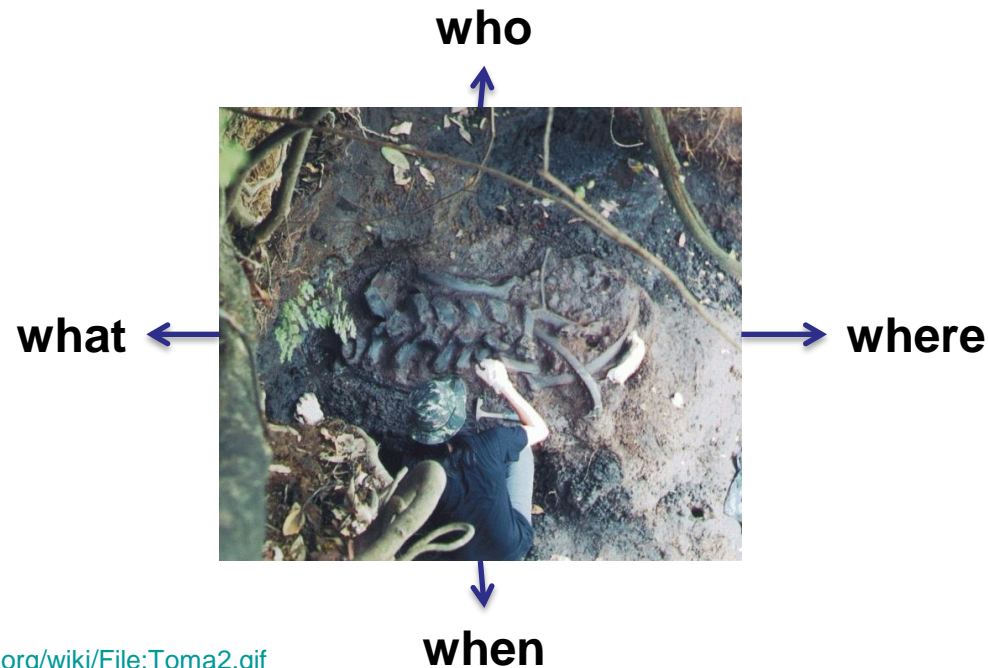


picture: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:JoyceUlysses2.jpg>



## Others are ...

- focusing on the description of the events in the lifecycle of an object
  - LIDO (Lightweight Information Describing Objects)
  - CIDOC-CRM (Conceptual Reference Model of the International Committee for Documentation of the International Council of Museums)



picture: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Toma2.gif>



Some are ...

- describing the compilation of objects
  - EAD (Encoded Archival Description)
  - METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard)

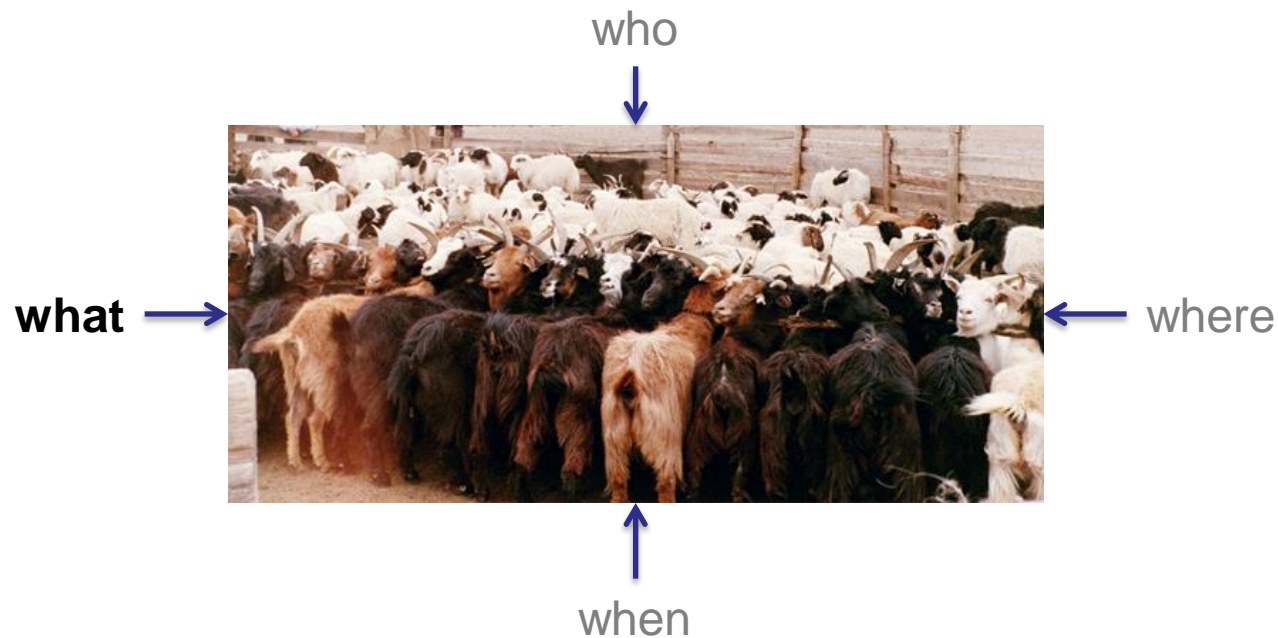


picture: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aktenordner.\\_stehend.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aktenordner._stehend.jpg)



# Others are ...

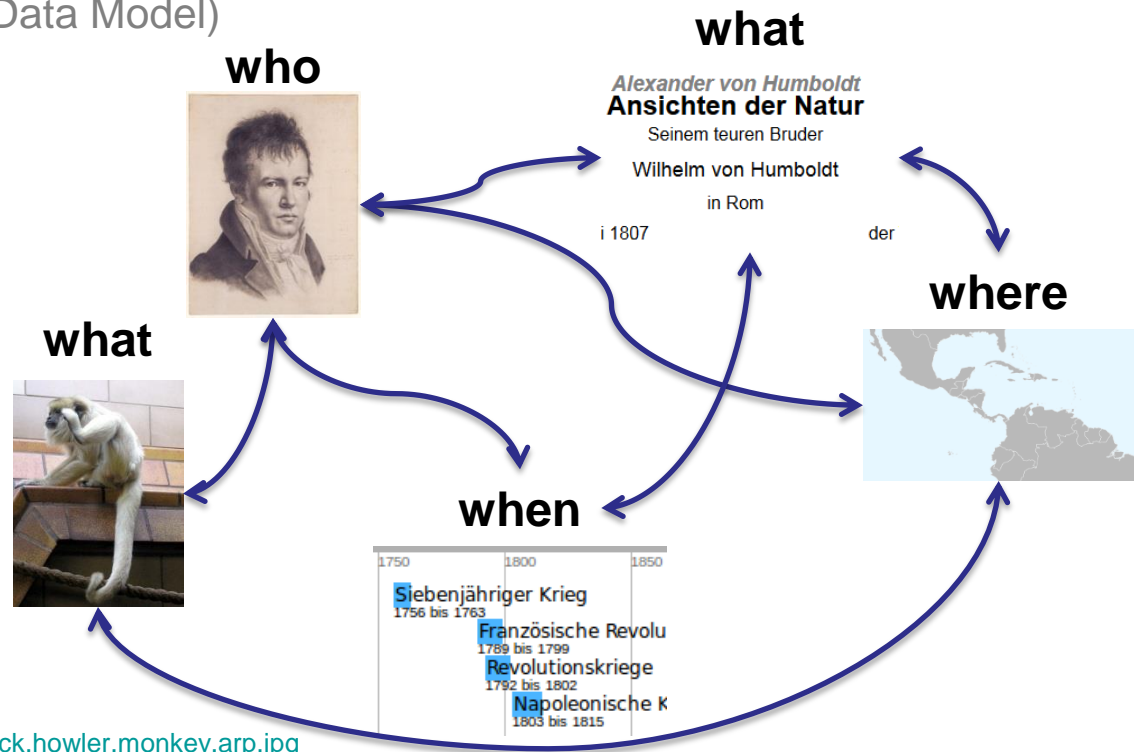
- describing „objects“ focusing on concepts
  - Darwin Core
  - ABCD (Access to Biological Collection Data)





## and Some are...

- contextualising „objects“
  - FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records)
  - EDM (Europeana Data Model)



pictures: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Black.howler.monkey.arp.jpg>  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alexander\\_von\\_Humboldt-selfportrait.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Alexander_von_Humboldt-selfportrait.jpg)  
[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Latin\\_America\\_-\\_First\\_level\\_political\\_divisions.svg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Latin_America_-_First_level_political_divisions.svg)  
<http://www.vistorica.com/ger/persongroups/1500,2000,european,all.html>



# „Mega-Model“ vs. „Meta-Model“



picture: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gojira\\_no\\_gyakushu\\_poster.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gojira_no_gyakushu_poster.jpg)

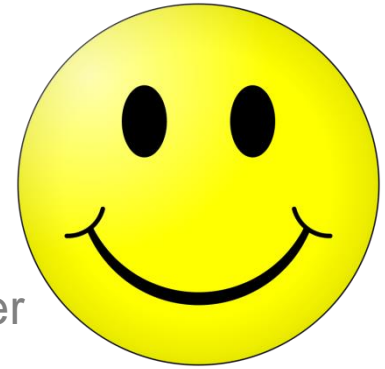


- „... to re-work Dieter Saemann's maxim 'there is no metadata police', implementors will bend the metadata standards for their own purposes.“

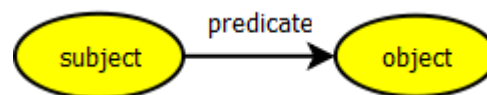
- or develop a new one



# „Meta-Model“ or Framework



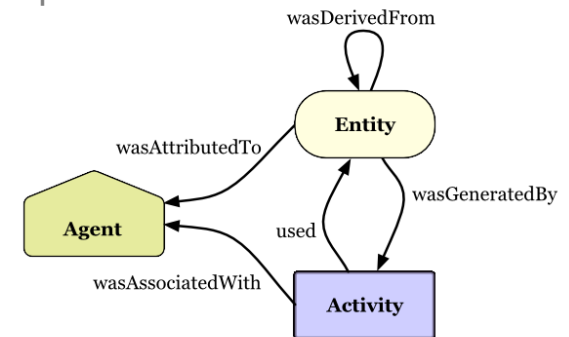
- Uses the least common denominator to bring the data together
- Allows different types of metadata descriptions
- Steps in this direction back to the 90s
  - Dublin Core Dumb-Down Principle: „... a principled way of viewing a complex metadata description through the lens of a simpler representation ...“  
(source: [http://wiki.dublincore.org/index.php/Glossary/Dumb-Down\\_Principle](http://wiki.dublincore.org/index.php/Glossary/Dumb-Down_Principle))
  - RDF (Resource Description Framework): a most generic framework modelling the relations between resources
    - Mandatory: every described resource must be identified by a unique http-Identifier
    - Freedom: use whatever metadata standard you like as long as the terms are identified by http-URIs



# The level between meta-model and domain specific standard



- The new generation
  - skos (Simple Knowledge Organization System):
    - „... a model for expressing the basic structure and content of concept schemes such as thesauri, classification schemes, subject heading lists, taxonomies, folksonomies, and other similar types of controlled vocabulary.“  
(source: <http://www.w3.org/TR/2009/NOTE-skos-primer-20090818/>)
    - Use it with RDF
  - W3C PROV:
    - „... a core data model for provenance ...“
    - „... for building representations of the entities, people and processes involved...“  
(source: <http://www.w3.org/TR/2013/NOTE-prov-primer-20130430/>)
    - Use it with RDF





# Scope of the Asch-Project

- Developing a metadata framework to bring together metadata descriptions of different types
  - Something between RDF and CIDOC-CRM
  - more RDF - less CRM
- Focusing on provenance information
  - W3C PROV as the backbone
  - align it with other meta-standards (RDF, EDM, CIDOC-CRM)
- Developing domain-specific Application Profiles
  - Using domainspecific standards like LIDO, MODS, Darwin Core, etc.
  - Using the DCMI dumb-down principle to align them with the meta-level
  - Check how good they fit into the model

# The ASCH-Workshop – Purpose and Scope



- DCMI Application Profile:
  - „... the term application profile has been applied to describe the tailoring of standards for specific applications.“

(source: <http://dublincore.org/documents/singapore-framework/>)
- Asch Application Profiles shall be:
  - less initiated by applications
  - more initiated by research questions and use cases
- our mission at the ASCH Workshop
  - collect use cases
  - find out, what the researcher wants to know
  - Find out in what context provenance information is used and needed

**And don't worry,  
we won't talk about metadata any more!**





# WORKSHOP PROGRAM

# TOPICS



## Today

- Ralf Thomas Schmitt: Provenance of natural history objects
- origin – emergence – creation
- attribution

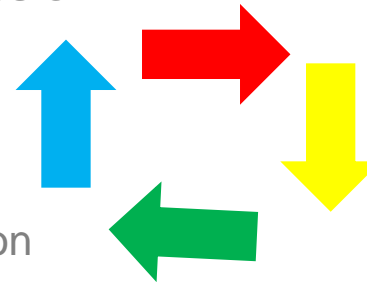
## Tomorrow

- Christina Dondi: The use of provenance evidence
- provenance – change of ownership
- evidence



# Our World Café Schedule

- **BREAK**
  - during the break draw a ticket
- **WORK!**
- short introduction into the topic of the discussion
- discussion
  - blue, red, yellow and green table
  - look at your ticket for the right table
  - leave your ticket at the last table of the section
  - final discussion
- **BREAK**
  - during the break draw a ticket
- etc.



SUB

NIEDERSÄCHSISCHE STAATS- UND  
UNIVERSITÄTSBIBLIOTHEK GÖTTINGEN



Have a lot of fun

Your ASCH-Team

